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By TOM WEIR

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PORT COSTA — This tiny town decided to needle Uncle Sam yesterday, bringing in an "urban acupuncture specialist" to cure its illegal sewer system.

But while Lowell Darling pounded ceramic nails into dirt outside the post office the waters of the Carquinez Strait did not become bluer, nor did the Federal Government's threat of a \$10,000-a-day fine lessen.

Mr. Darling is a Southern Californian not too unlike Dr. Strangelove in appearance. He wears green goggles and talks of past accomplishments such as sewing up the San Andreas fault with rawhide.

If those aren't ample credentials he will proudly remind you he has "nailed nearly every Western city to the earth, and not one has fallen off yet."

Why hasn't he solved Marin County's water problem? Well, these things take time, but the answer is simple. "Move Marin County to British Columbia, or move British Columbia to Marin County."

The punchlines completed, Mr. Darling explained the theories of "urban acupuncture." Each part of a city relates to a part of a human body, he said. Pointing to a map of Port Costa, Darling showed that the roads are the legs, the school is the brain.

"But," he added, "Port Costa's school is vacant, which may be the cause of all the problems."

Mr. Darling's efforts yesterday were meant only to "sedate the city," in hopes of soothing the sewage problem. So that it wouldn't be a painful treatment, he placed ice on the turf outside the post office (the ears of Port Costa) to numb it. Three other parts of town were to receive similar attention

Before piercing the earth with the first of two needles Mr. Darling reminded the 50 onlookers, "I am charging no fee."

"You don't charge fees because nobody would pay you," hollered one irate citizen, Frank Jurik, a former town council member. "This is a serious problem. You're not helping any with this kind of blarney. You just came down here to have a laugh."

Contra Costa County Supervisor Nancy Fahden evidently felt the same way, leaving before the ceremony began.

"This is a very serious subject. It takes a lot of work," she said, referring to the possibility a sew-

age plant will be built by the government, then operated at an annual cost of \$400 to every household. "I thought this was a council meeting, but evidently it's just a publicity stunt."

Juanita Musson, the city's most famous citizen and owner of Juanita's restaurant, was not riled by the fun, but rather with the government.

"What has San Francisco done about its sewage problems? Why should they pick on us?"

But a dog had last say on the subject, sniffing Darling's acupuncture chart as he finished the lecture, then splashing his own bit of sewage on the plan.

# Gotta Plan to Fix the Fault?

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Tribune Hayward Bureau

If you are an inventor and you have been thinking small, now's your chance to start inventing on a cosmic scale—but you gotta think fast.

Lowell Darling, mastermind of the Center of World Problems in Hollywood and the world's first "urban acupuncturist," is coming to town tomorrow.

Darling is making a special trip to Hayward because he feels "it's time something is done to fix the Hayward (earthquake) fault." With the cooperation of California State University here, Darling will hold an open competition for local inventors who may have a solution by "designing a fastener or clip to stop further slippage of the Hayward fault."

To turn on those inventors who cannot think this big right off, Darling announces in his contest flyer that "further slippage of the fault could tilt the campus, ruin the beautiful buildings and grounds and disrupt campus life."

Darling recently designed a system of 40-foot-tall electric fans for the southern Canadian border. The fans would blow fallout from American atomic tests back into the States at the flip of a switch. The Canadian Government thanked him but declined the offer.

The "Fix the Fault" contest gets under way at 1 p.m. tomorrow in the sculpture patio of the Fine Arts building.



# Not Really His Fault, Darling

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ESB

## Tribune Hayward Bureau

"If you do things backwards and wrong, you come out right," said Lowell Darling, precocious protege of Buckminster Fuller, as he turned a giant, silver screw into the ground at Cal State University here — backwards.

Darling, president of the Center of World Problems in Hollywood, was laughing almost constantly as he conducted an awards program yesterday "for creative ideas to stop the slippage of the Hayward Fault."

As half a dozen students dragged their inventions through a sudden, driving rain, Mr. Darling, 34, said: "There's no way you're going to stop earthquakes from happening, but I want to keep them to a mini-

mum." He just as quickly took credit for the lack of a major California earthquake in recent years on the grounds that he has been nailing cities and campuses down for six years in his self-appointed capacity as an "urban acupuncturist."

Mr. Darling began this career in 1971 when he laced up the San Andreas Fault with rawhide. He has varied his urban acupuncture technique with such measures as driving those giant nails into the earth or offering to jam giant staples on both sides of all faults in North America.

With ideas like that, how does darling make a living? "I get from \$100 to \$500 for speaking engagements," he said, adding that he got the lower figure at Cal State.

But the money isn't every-

thing, he said, for he gets great ideas from students.

Like the pair of faultless welded and spiked boots, created by art student Bob Irving. The student stalked around in the mud to demonstrate that his left, electrically charged boot sinks into the ground at an earthquake fault. "The shoes come with red and yellow straps," he said.

But that wasn't good enough for Mr. Darling, who also pooh-poohed a "zipper cart" created by students Diane Call and Nancy Francis. The girls explained that they would pull the cart along over a fault crack and hammer down the zipper tape as they string it from the cart.

The winner of Mr. Darling's "master of find art" degree was a student couple,

Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeMarco, who displayed a model of a fault, two rows of pigs and movable troughs on both sides of the fault. The pigs, tied to stakes at opposite sides of the fault, would be drawn away by pursuing the movable troughs, thus pulling the fault sides together, the couple explained.

"Genius!" exclaimed Mr. Darling.

But even the first prize was a put-on. For Mr. Darling admitted that he has issued "millions" of his "master" degrees all across the country.

And then Mr. Darling was off to Vancouver, "for I do things backwards, remember, and I always spend the winter in Vancouver. And it works, for see what's happening in Florida?"